(b) whether gold was given to jewellery exporters under Gold on Loan scheme launched by MMTC;

(c) if so, the details of exporters and quantity of gold given to them during the above period, location-wise;

(d) whether the payment has been made to MMTC by the exporters after exporting jewellery in accordance with the rules prescribed by MMTC; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The total quantity of gold imported by MMTC during the last three years under Special Import Licence is as follows:—

| Year | Gold in Kgs. |
|---|---|
| 1993-94 | 0 |
| 1994-95 | 3000 |
| 1995-96 | 7000 |

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. About 400 exporters of gold jewellery have been given gold under loan schemes operated by MMTC. Total quantity of gold loaned by MMTC during the last 3 years state-wise is given below:—

(Qty. in Kgs.)

| States | 93-94 | 94-95 | 95-96 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delhi | 5571 | 5125 | 3993 | 14689 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1253 | 1107 | 1518 | 3878 |
| Maharashtra | 2760 | 3749 | 3564 | 10073 |
| Karnataka | 676 | 1581 | 2376 | 4633 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 0 | 82 | 166 | 248 |
| West Bengal | 619 | 474 | 1225 | 2318 |
| Rajasthan | 0 | 0 | 74 | 74 |
| Gujarat | 63 | 311 | 200 | 574 |
| TOTAL: | 10942 | 12429 | 13116 | 36487 |

(d) and (e) Of the total quantity of 36,487 kgs. of gold issued on loan by MMTC to exporters, MMTC has not received payment for a quantity of 352 kgs. This works out to be less than 1 % of the total amount of gold issued on loan by MMTC to jewellery exporters during the last three years. Reasons for non-payment broadly are the following:—

(1) Requests by some exporters for extension of time for effecting exports.

(2) Unauthorised removal of gold from the Customs bonded premises.

(3) Non-realisation of export proceeds.

**Maharashtra Government's views on foodgrains policy of the Central Government**

931. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra State Government has complained against the foodgrains policy of the Central Government;

(b) whether Food Corporation of India has turned down various requests of the State Government for the release of free sale wheat for the months of October and November, 1996; and

(c) whether Government would take immediate steps to release wheat to Maharashtra at the earliest keeping in view the fact that Maharashtra is non-wheat producing State and its-non-supply puts strain on the price situation?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) A communication has been received from the Government of Maharashtra regarding open market sale scheme of foodgrains.

(b) and (c) FCI has allotted a quantity of 35,000 tonnes of wheat for October, 96 and 40,000 tonnes of wheat for November, 96 for sale in Maharashtra under open market sale scheme. During the month of October, 96 out of 35,000 tonnes of wheat allotted 30,460 tonnes stand lifted by the buyers (from Maharashtra local depots—14,460 tonnes and from Gujarat—15,800) and the lifting of the balance quantity is in progress from Gujarat Region.

Against an allocation of 40,000 tonnes of wheat for November, 96 for issue from the local depots of Maharashtra only 32,030 tonnes (provisional) has been lifted by the buyers of Maharashtra and lifting of the balance quantity is in progress.

All possible steps have been taken to regulate the issue of wheat under open sale to increase the availability of wheat in the open market.

**Fall in the Capacity utilisation of Steel Plants in the Public Sector**

932. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep fall in the capacity utilisation of the Steel Plants in the public sector like Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by bow much amount the Rourkela Steel Plant is lagging behind its capacity utilisation;

(c) whether the public sector steel plants are running into losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof plant-wise; and

(e) steps proposed to be taken to improve the capacity utilisation and to remove the causes that are responsible for incurring of the losses?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) There has not been a steep fall in the aggregate capacity utilisation of SAIL, which includes the four Integrated Steel Plants (ISPs), and of IISCO, a subsidiary of SAIL, and also of Rashtriya Nigam Nigam Limited (RINL) during the last three years. However, the integrated steel plant-wise saleable steel capacity utilisation at SAIL, IISCO and RINL is as follows:—

(Unit: %)

| | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 |
|---|---|---|---|
| DSP | 68 | 85 | 76 |
| RSP | 97 | 103 | 95 |
| BSP | 106 | 108 | 111 |
| BSL | 102 | 100 | 106 |
| SAIL (4ISPs) | 99 | 102 | 102 |
| IISCO | 82 | 82 | 75 |
| RINL | 45 | 59 | 80 |

IISCO is operating with a derated capacity. The Annual" Plan has, therefore, been treated as the capacity.

Major reasons for not achieving 100% capacity utilisation at Rourkela Steel Plant during 1995-96 include operational problems at Blast Furnaces which are not fully modernised as yet, facilities set-up under modernisation are under stabilisation, etc. Similarly, the main reason for lower capacity utilisation in Durgapur Steel Plant has been the progressive stabilisation of modernisation facilities, etc.

(c) and (d) Profit & Loss for SAIL are declared for SAIL as a Company consisting of its various plants and central units. Plantwise details of Profit & Loss in ISPs of SAIL, IISCO and RINL for the last three years is as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

| Years | BSP | DSP | RSP | BSL | SAIL as a Company (Before Tax) | IISCO | RINL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1993-94 | 368 | -213 | 3 | 468 | 545 | -76 | -573 |
| 1994-95 | 639 | -94 | 19 | 662 | 1163 | -6 | -364 |
| 1995-96 | 819 | -174 | -57 | 806 | 1319 | -49 | -204 |

(*) Indicates Loss.